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## BOOK NOTICES

**The Washington Manuscript of the Psalms** (The Old Testament Manuscripts in the Freer Collection, Part II.) By Henry A. Sanders. New York: Macmillan, 1917. Pp. viii+244. \$2.00.

This is a Greek text of the Psalter and was obtained by Mr. Charles L. Freer of Detroit from an Arab dealer at Gizeh, near Cairo. The manuscript was in a very bad state of decay. As Professor Sanders describes it, "this deterioration had progressed so far that over half of each leaf was affected, and at the beginning of the codex the decay covered some entire leaves. . . . In decay the parchment became a hard, glue-like substance, which kept approximately the original shape of the manuscript, but with the exception of a few leaves at the back, all had joined into a solid mass." It was only by the most minutely painstaking and tedious endeavor that the leaves could be separated at all, and scholars will be correspondingly grateful to Professor Sanders. The condition of the manuscript rendered a large part of the text wholly illegible; in such places the blanks are supplied by insertion of the necessary material from Swete's text. Professor Sanders dates the manuscript from the fifth century A.D., preferably the first half. A large part of the Introduction gives us the paleographical details of the manuscript; a brief discussion of the text problem is also furnished. Professor Sanders decides that it belongs to the Psalter text as distinguished from the Complete Bible text and that it is the oldest representative of that text. This text, which is to be known by the symbol A, is printed so as to reproduce the lines of the manuscript, and a collation of the new text with Swete's text is appended in footnotes. The paleographical study of the manuscript is facilitated by the addition of six photographs, one being of the manuscript as a whole in its original lump-like form, the other five being folding plates giving typical pages of the text. The work will be indispensable to all students of the text of the Psalms. The original manuscript is ultimately to be deposited in the gallery to be erected by Mr. Freer in Washington, D.C., and placed under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution.

**The Bible in English Literature.** By Edgar Whitaker Work. New York: Revell, 1917. Pp. 287. \$1.25.

Dr. Work has here brought together the results of an enormous amount of reading in the field of English literature. His book is the product of a mind that is saturated with biblical phraseology and is deeply devoted to the study

of the sacred literature. It makes no pretensions toward critical or scholarly appreciation of the literature in the light of the circumstances amid which it arose. It is for the most part a catalogue of citations from the great English writers who have found their inspiration in the Bible. It is an enjoyable book to read, and it sets forth admirably one aspect of the profound impression which the English Bible has made upon English life. It is well worth a place in the library of every student of either English or biblical literature, not as directly contributing to an understanding of the latter, but as setting forth clearly and attractively the influence of the latter upon the former so far as it is revealed by the borrowing of phraseology.

**The Origin and Growth of the Hebrew Religion.**

By Henry Thatcher Fowler. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1916. Pp. xv+190. \$1.00.

This new volume of the "Constructive Studies" is from an experienced teacher of college students. Dr. Fowler is likewise at home in the critical interpretation of the Old Testament literature. The book represents what is probably the best presentation of the religion of the Old Testament to the mind of the college student. It naturally does not formulate new hypotheses nor strike out in new paths. It is cautious and reverent in its utterances, but at the same time it presents the biblical literature from a genuinely historical point of view. In the hands of a skilful teacher the book ought to serve as an admirable introduction to the study of a great subject.

**The Human Element in the Making of a Christian.** By Bertha Condé. New York: Scribner, 1917. x+161 pages. \$1.00.

The subtitle of this book reads, "Studies in Personal Evangelism." It is good to have the word "evangelism" rescued from its rather narrow, stereotyped significance and broadened so as to include in all its complexity the problem of making the gospel persuasively potent in life. The author writes out of a rich experience. She has in mind the needs of persons like Y.W.C.A. secretaries or directors of religious work in schools, and the book abounds in suggestive hints and comments. It would make an edifying textbook for any adult Sunday-school class, and could be read with profit by pastors. Nineteen chapters deal with various subjects after the pedagogical method made familiar by the textbooks prepared by the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., and a well-selected reading list is furnished at the end of the volume.